

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims supersedes all previous listings of claims.

1. (Previously Presented) A method for collecting or detecting a biological particle from air, the method comprising the steps of:

a) providing a sample chamber and a first and a second electrode, the first and the second electrode and the sample chamber being so positioned that at least a part of the sample chamber is between the first and the second electrode, and the first and a second electrode is separated by a distance being less than 20 mm, said sample chamber having a volume of at most 500 μL ,

b) providing a gaseous sample in the sample chamber,

c) applying a first potential to the first electrode and a second potential to the second electrode, thus resulting in a potential difference and an electric field between the first and second electrode, to assist electrostatic collection, in the sample chamber, of a biological particle in the gaseous sample,

d) contacting the biological particle collected in the sample chamber with a first liquid, and

e) subjecting the collected biological particle to further analysis.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first potential of the first electrode and the second potential of the second electrode, and thus the electric field between the first and the second electrode, are selected so as to yield a capture efficiency of at least 50% for biological particles having an effective length in the interval from 1-10 micrometer.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first or the second electrodes are from the group of: a sheet, a plate, a disc, a wire, a rod, a point; or any combination thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and a second electrode are separated by a distance being at the most 10 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the gaseous sample in the sample chamber is positioned or flows between the first and the second electrode.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biological particle comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a microorganism, a virus, a plant spore, and a fragment thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the microorganism is a bacterial spore.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the bacterial spore is formed by a bacterium selected from the genus *Bacillus* or the genus *Clostridium*.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein the bacterial spore is a spore formed by *Bacillus anthracis*.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the first and the second electrode are

separated by a distance being at the most 3 mm.

18. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sample chamber has a volume of at most 100 μL .

19. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the volume of the sample chamber is in the range of 1 μL - 50 μL .